

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sea surface antenna comprising a tube of metallic material, the tube having a substantially longitudinal slot coupled at its midpoint to a feed line, the slot being bridged by two pluralities of varactor diodes to either side of the feed-point, each plurality being distributed along a respective part of the slot, the length of the antenna being dimensioned less than 0.25λ , where λ is the free space wavelength at the operating frequency, the antenna being dimensioned so as to operate in an evanescent mode at a resonant frequency less than the cut-off frequency, the antenna being provided with means for applying a variable bias to the varactor diodes.

2. (Original) An antenna according to claim 1 wherein the slot is shorted at each end.

3. (Previously Presented) A sea surface antenna comprising a tube of metallic material on a dielectric former, the tube having a longitudinal slot coupled at its midpoint to a feed line, the slot being bridged by two pluralities of varactor diodes to either side of the feed-point, each plurality being distributed along a respective part of the slot, the length of the antenna being less than 0.25λ and the diameter of the antenna being less than 0.02λ , where λ is the free space wavelength at the operating frequency, the antenna being dimensioned so as to operate in an evanescent mode at a resonant frequency less than the cut-off frequency, the antenna being provided with means for applying a variable bias to the varactor diodes.

4. (Currently Amended) An antenna according to claim 23 wherein the slot is shorted at each end.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A sea surface antenna arrangement including two or more like antennas ~~according claim to 3~~ placed in a colinear configuration and connected electrically in parallel, wherein each of said like antennas comprises a tube of metallic material on a dielectric former, the tube having a substantially longitudinal slot coupled at its midpoint to a feed line, the slot being bridged by two pluralities of varactor diodes to either side of the feed-point, each plurality being distributed along a respective part of the slot, the length of the antenna being less than 0.25λ and the diameter of the antenna being less than 0.02λ , where λ is the free space wavelength at the operating frequency, the antenna being dimensioned so as to operate in an evanescent mode at a resonant frequency less than the cut-off frequency, the antenna being provided with means for applying a variable bias to the varactor diodes.